

CRIME OF A MOTHER

Mrs. Harre of Okemos Poison Her Little Son

AND STEALS HIS CORPSE

From Under the Watchers' Eyes, Dropping It Down a Well—The Woman Confesses.

LANSING, Mich., May 18.—Mrs. John Harre this afternoon confessed to Detective Able that she had killed her boy, saying that she preferred to have him dead and in his grave rather than to have him grow up a thief. She was promptly placed under arrest and brought to this city. The officers have no doubt that she is insane.

Upon arriving here this afternoon the inhuman mother was seen at the city jail. She said that she administered the poison to her boy in a piece of apple pie Sunday noon at dinner. "He was a good boy," she said, "but he stole some nails and a lead pencil at Okemos and I didn't want him to be a thief." The witness, who admitted, was broken by herself while the other occupants of the room were not looking, by throwing a piece of crockery through it, and she also confessed to having taken the body through the window and throwing it into the well. She denies having had any hand in the death of her other child.

LANSING, Mich., May 18.—Okemos is in the wildest excitement over a sudden death and a mysteriously spirited away corpse. This in conjunction with divers other gruesome things all happening in and about the village, has created a general feeling of uneasiness and a feeling of dread.

Frank Harre was a farmer living about three miles from Okemos village. A year ago he was killed by a falling log, and his wife has been in no end of trouble ever since. The farm has been the scene of continual depredations. The horses' tails have been severed, harnesses have been stolen, wheels have been taken from cloggers and drawn to the top of straw stacks, and everything that a malevolent spirit could conjure up has been done.

Death of the Boy.

Finally the widow grew tired of life on a farm and removed to the village, but she remained only four weeks and then returned to her old home. Since that time her troubles have been worse than ever.

Mrs. Harre had a son George, about 9 years old. Last Saturday night he was taken sick. Dr. Ferguson of Okemos was called, and on the following day the boy seemed to be much better, but towards night he had another relapse. He died at 4 o'clock Monday morning. It was a strange circumstance that on the same day two pigs and a calf died on the farm.

The boy's death was so mysterious that yesterday Dr. Ferguson asked permission to hold a post mortem. The widow refused, pretending giving no very clear reasons. Steps were then taken to enlist the aid of the authorities.

Seizing the Corpse.

Last night two women of the neighborhood undertook to sit up with the corpse, occupying different rooms. They found a most strange story, which is borne out by the facts. About 2 o'clock in the morning they were awakened by a crash on the opposite side of the house. The noise sounded like the breaking of a window. They were terribly frightened, and much so to undertake an investigation and in sheer desperation blew out the lamp.

For several minutes they remained in darkness, oppressed by the most gruesome thoughts, but finally came to themselves, then in company with others they went into the death chamber. The corpse was found. The window had been broken and a screen had fallen against it. The body was lying on the floor, and it was perfectly clear that the corpse had been taken out the window.

Found in a Well.

After searching the premises for some time, Dr. Ferguson and Justice of the Peace Sterling made a discovery. The morning body was seen at the bottom of a well 10 feet deep. It was soon recovered and made ready for post mortem examination.

It appears that the mother sat up with the other women last night, but she would not go out for five or ten minutes at a time on the peak of private necessity.

When the window was broken, the woman was in the room; at least the other women say so. It appears, however, that they paid but little attention to her movements. She would have had plenty of time to go around to the other side of the house without the knowledge of her companions.

Mrs. Harre Bought Poison.

This morning Mr. Sterling asked Mrs. Harre how she accounted for the sudden death of the boy.

"You don't accuse me of killing my own boy?" exclaimed she in broken English. "She did not appear to be very much distressed over her loss."

Last Saturday the mother sent a man named Hanson to Okemos for a package of "rough on rats." She said she thought he had the poisons of vermin. She also got a small bottle of chloroform on the pretense of using it in a case of sickness.

Dr. Ferguson says the key sounded freely during his brief illness, which he considered a suspicious circumstance.

During the past three years four children of Mrs. Harre have died under the suspicious circumstances. Neighbors shake their heads and throw out dark hints, but no definite accusations have yet been made and no arrests have been attempted.

Believed to Be Insane.

There are many who believe the mother to be insane. She has somewhat wild looks. It is related that some time ago she asked for the loan of a shovel. "I want to dig up my husband," she said in explanation. She was a very ignorant woman of about 35, and it is believed that if she has any guilty knowledge it cannot long be suppressed. The death of the animals on the farm is accounted for by the belief that "rough on rats" are placed in milk which is afterwards fed to them. Mrs. Harre has two children left, both daughters, aged 10 and 13 respectively.

Prosecuting Attorney Gardner is expected from town today this afternoon.

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Religion, Politics and Writings Were Discussed

AT THE CONGRESS OF WOMEN

The Diversified Nature of the Program Would Have Craved Any But Feminine Minds.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Religion and politics, literature and women's club life were blended in the proceedings of the world's fair congress of women this morning. The attendance on the different events has been steadily growing, and this morning it was estimated that fully 20,000 people, nine-tenths of them women, were crowded into the different halls where question of one kind and another were under consideration.

The session in the hall of Washington this morning was devoted to a consideration of woman as a religious teacher. Mrs. Ellen J. Phinney of Cleveland presided, and Ursula N. Gestefeld of New York opened the consideration of the subject with a lengthy paper.

Foreign Women Talk.

Woman's place in Hebrew thought, was the principal topic of consideration at the morning session in Columbus hall. Lydia Louisa Unger, representing the Women's Foreign Missionary society of the reformed church of the United States, was the principal speaker. A paper upon "The Light in the East," was presented by Erika Anna Thayer and Ella Dietz Clynor of New York spoke at length upon the subject.

Perhaps one of the most interesting gatherings of the morning was that in hall No. 6, where representative women from Russia, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Finland spoke in their native tongue upon various movements with which the women of their native land are identified.

Women who have devoted the greater part of their lives to the advocacy of the political emancipation of their sex, crowded hall No. 3 at 10 o'clock when the National Women's Suffrage association was called to order with a vigorous address by the venerable Susan B. Anthony. Seated on the platform were the conferees of Aberdeen, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Dr. Maria Popelin of Brussels, and Jane Colton Unwin. Florence Fenwick Miller and Harriet Stanton Blatch of England. All of these were among the speakers of the day.

Religion and Writers.

Religious exercises preceded the opening of the congress of the Women's Baptist Home Mission society in hall No. 4. Mrs. J. N. Crouse presided. The morning session was devoted to the reading and discussion of papers relating to the subject of its origin to the present time.

Clara Barton was not present at the opening session of the American Protective Society of Authors and Mrs. M. D. Lincoln of Washington presided. In hall No. 8 Mrs. D. C. C. was the presiding officer, and she was supported on the platform by Mrs. Sara J. Lippincott, "Grace Greenwood," Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Mrs. E. D. E. Southworth, the poetess, Kate Browne Shivers, and Emily Thornton Charles, "Emily Hawthorn."

All of these participated in the discussion of the papers presented, and which dealt with the methods necessary for the protection of authors, imperfections of the copyright law, need of insurance against piracy of brains, and the critical condition in which authors are now placed as between the two free of publisher and plagiarist.

The Evening Session.

In hall No. 24 the opening session of the congress of the Women's Centenary association was called to order by the president, Mrs. C. A. Quinby. Addresses were made by Mrs. D. C. C. and Mrs. J. N. Crouse. The necessity of union, the need of women in religious work and kindred topics. In the adjoining hall a large assemblage of women members of the Catholic church discussed the elevation of nuns through the veneration of the blessed virgin.

Tonight the usual crowds which have attended the general congress and the many departments were out in full force. The program was equally as elaborate as during the earlier hours of the day, consisting mainly of religious topics and pertinent subjects. The auditors were perplexed in deciding upon which of the literary feasts they would most enjoy.

In the hall of Washington the session was opened by the Rev. Florence E. Kollock of Chicago, who read a paper on "Woman in the Pulpit," which was discussed by the Revs. Eugene St. John of Kansas, Ella Cope of Michigan and Caroline J. Bartlett of Michigan. Then followed "The Intellectual Progress of the Colored Woman," the United States since the Emancipation Proclamation," a paper by Fannie B. Williams, read by the Rev. Augusta J. Chapin of Illinois.

Conglomerate Discussion.

The Columbus hall program began with "Woman as a Minister of Religion" by the Rev. Mary A. Stafford of Iowa. She was followed by Sarah J. Early of Tennessee, whose theme was "The Organized Efforts of Colored Women in the South to Improve Their Condition." The Report congress, the National American Woman Suffrage association, Woman's Baptist Home Missionary society, General Federation of Woman's club, American Protective society of Authors, Women's Centenary association and the Catholic Woman's Department congress continued their exercises begun at the morning sessions, the reading of papers being interspersed with music and song.

WAS ILLINOIS' DAY.

CHICAGO, May 18.—In the presence of three score thousands of people, at high noon today, the grand building erected by the state of Illinois at the world's fair was dedicated. It was the brightest day the White city has seen since it was formally opened to the world by President Cleveland. Hon. Lafayette Park, president of the Illinois world's fair commission, made the formal delivery of the building to Governor Altgeld in an eloquent address. After remarks by Mrs. Maria Louisa Unger, president of the Illinois world's fair society

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FAMOUS MEN ARE PRESENT

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The scene in New York Avenue church this morning was inspiring. Every nook and corner was filled, and had the capacity of the church been twice as great, it would not have accommodated the delegates. A number of questions were presented to the commissioners and others having business in connection with the assembly. On the platform were the officers—moderator, the Rev. Dr. William C. Young of Danville, Kentucky, secretary, the Rev. Dr. William H. Roberts of Cincinnati, Ohio, who for nine years has served the General assembly as its stated clerk; the Rev. Dr. William Alvin Bartlett, the local pastor and chairman of the executive committee in charge of all arrangements for the gathering.

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The object of the attorneys of the Chinese is to interpose legal obstacles to prevent any attempt to deport the Chinese before congress assemblies. Their purpose is to appeal to congress for some modification of the Geary law.

Sanitarium for the Army.

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Commercial Use of Niagara.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., May 18.—The Niagara Falls Power company has approved a contract with the newly organized Cataract Electric company of this city to furnish electric power to the Niagara Falls city for use as a motive power in this city. The Cataract company is said to be capitalized at \$1,000,000. On account of Rochester being seventy-five miles from Niagara there is some doubt as to whether power can be furnished cheaply enough to compete with the local electric companies. Buffalo is but twenty-three miles from the falls and the experiment will be tried there first. Appropriation from Syracuse, Utica and Albany have been secured by the Niagara company.

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